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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6438**

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 56

**NOTE PREPARED:** Apr 5, 2007

**BILL AMENDED:** Apr 5, 2007

**SUBJECT:** Teacher Licensing.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Lubbers

**FIRST SPONSOR:** Rep. Goodin

**BILL STATUS:** CR Adopted - 2<sup>nd</sup> House

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X **GENERAL**  
**DEDICATED**  
**FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** (Amended) *Licensure of Persons with Postgraduate Degrees*- The bill requires the Department of Education to grant an initial standard teacher's license for a specific subject area in middle school or high school to an applicant who has earned a postgraduate degree in the subject area, has experience teaching students, and complies with certain requirements for licensure.

*Teacher Professional Development Days*- The bill provides that a maximum of three full school days or six half days, or a combination of full and half days that equals not more than three full days, when students are dismissed for staff professional development activities count as student instructional days for purposes of the required 180 day school year.

*Certification Without Licensing Examination*- The bill allows a person who has failed the teacher licensing examination at least two times to demonstrate proficiency by having the person's teacher education school or department certify to the department of education that the person possesses the content knowledge required by the examination.

**Effective Date:** (Amended) Upon passage; July 1, 2007.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** (Revised) *Licensure of Persons with Postgraduate Degrees*- The Department of Education could see an increase in persons applying for an initial standard license as a result of the bill. However, applicants that meet the criteria of the bill would be required to comply with certain licensing requirements for an initial standard license. The requirements would include an oath or affirmation to support the Constitution of the United States, submission of a limited history check, and passage of the PRAXIS series examination. It would also require a person to have at least five academic years of teaching

experience, which may include teaching experience in a college classroom. The bill could require the need for additional administrative time for the Department to process license applications. The Department's Division of Professional Standards reverted \$190,022 at the close of FY 2006.

*Background: Transition to Teaching-* Under current law and administrative rule, persons with a baccalaureate degree, with certain GPA or professional restrictions, may enter into the Transition to Teaching program offered at any university within the state that offers an education undergraduate program. Typically, a person in the program must complete 18 or 24 credit hours of class work before applying for a teaching license. The bill would allow a person with a masters or doctorate degree and classroom teaching experience to bypass the credit hour requirement and upon successful completion of the PRAXIS examination apply for a license.

As of October 2006, the Department had granted teacher licenses to 1,344 individuals through the Transition to Teaching program, since the program's inception.

(Revised) *Teacher Professional Development Days-* This provision should have no fiscal impact on the state since the number of instructional days the state funds would be unchanged.

(Revised) *Certification Without Licensing Examination-* A teacher-education school would be allowed to certify to the Department of Education that an applicant is proficient in a test area if the applicant has twice scored below the cut-score on that test area by no more than three points. Applicants pay to take the qualifying examination. The Department would have to process certification documentation sent by education schools within existing resources. The bill does not make an appropriation to cover these expenditures.

*Background:* The Department reverted \$3.3 M back to the state General Fund at the close of FY 2006.

PRAXIS Examinations- PRAXIS examinations are given by ETS (the current PRAXIS vendor) to applicants directly at various colleges and universities in the state. The PRAXIS examination is currently offered in either paper/pencil or computer-based form. Applicants may retake the examination an unlimited number of times. The fee is \$35 per test area for the Praxis I paper/pencil examination. All three required categories (reading, writing, and mathematics) total \$105 in fees. Fees for computer-based tests are \$75 for one test, \$110 for two tests, and \$145 for three tests.

### **Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** *Licensure of Persons with Postgraduate Degrees-* The bill could generate a larger pool of applicants for teaching positions in public schools. Schools, as a result, may be able to hire new teachers into specific educational areas that currently are difficult to fill. Hiring new teachers would increase school expenditures. However, schools hiring additional teachers would have to pay them from tuition support allocations under future school funding formulas.

(Revised) *Teacher Professional Development Days-* School corporations could experience a decrease in transportation costs and salaries of noncertified personnel if students are not being required to attend school during professional development days. Transportation costs are about \$2.73 M per day, and the salaries of noncertified employees are about \$2.8 M per day. The savings on noncertified employees would depend on if they were included in the full-day professional development.

*Background Information:* Currently, schools can use up to six half days per year for parent-teacher conferences or professional development.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Department of Education.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Schools.

**Information Sources:** Educational Testing Service: [www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org); Indiana Department of Education, Division of Professional Standards website: [www.doe.state.in.us/dps/faq/teachertesting.html](http://www.doe.state.in.us/dps/faq/teachertesting.html).

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